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ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
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No. 26



In the Food-for-Freedom campaign which represents agriculture's contribution to our national defense program, the SCS has an opportunity for service which is a real challenge. Through our cooperation with soil conservation districts the possibilities are manifold for activities which will encourage beneficial uses of the land for the farmer, for soil conservation, and for defense.

How to make the most of our opportunities in concrete activities has been occupying considerable time and thought in the Washington office. Viewpoints seem to indicate two lines of activities; both are aimed at methods which we may use in helping attain the Department's production goals for 1942.

The first type of activity calls for even closer cooperation with districts and their leaders; the second stresses information to farmers how particular conservation practices will aid them in obtaining greater production next year for the necessary crops and livestock products. These suggested points indicate trends. We hope we shall receive some suggestions from the field as additions or improvements upon what we hereby offer.

First, the activities for closer cooperation with districts and their leaders. We should remember that we are co-workers with at least 2,745 members of district governing bodies in 549 districts. From their experience in soil conservation demonstration projects, where Service personnel administered the work locally, our technicians have been able to assist in many practical ways the advancement of soil erosion control and conservation work administered by the district governing bodies. Further progress may be made by carefully considering some points which are presented here as questions:

1. Are we always sufficiently careful in seeing that our words and actions forthrightly present the district as the most effective, practical, and altogether most desirable means of organized attack on problems of soil erosion control and conservation of rainfall?

2. Do we recognize fully the cooperative characteristics of districts and the inter-relationships affecting best district operations?

3. In our associations with district governing bodies, do we always strive to make clear to them their opportunities for really important undertakings and service, individually and collectively, or do we tend to bring to them only routine and inconsequential matters--possibly too often, problems primarily our own?

4. Are we always careful in our approach to the governing bodies of districts with respect to presentation of

(Continued on page 3)

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ABOUT DEFENSE

About 35 manufacturers have been directed by OPM Priorities Division to accept, under certain conditions, Russian orders for machine tools estimated to cost 10 to 15 million dollars. The importance of the order is indicated by the provision that no preference rating, urgency standing, or other order issued by the Priorities Division, is to interfere with the delivery of the machine tools earmarked for Russia, unless the Division so specifies.

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Here's travesty in the news. For the first time in its history, the National Defense Mediation Board went through a week--from Nov. 10 to 16--without a strike on its calendar. At the same time, as a result of the Board's refusal to recommend a union shop in captive mines, defense production was threatened to be paralyzed through a strike of the mine workers.

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Nutrition values of food would be learned more readily by the use of common terms, says Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt as Director of Defense Health and Welfare Services. Stating that ignorance and misunderstanding are the major causes of malnutrition, Director McNutt has called upon scientists to translate the newer knowledge of nutrition into words of common coinage. As an outstanding example of a scientific term which is likely to mislead the uninformed, he cited the important vitamin, "nicotinic acid."

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OCD has issued regulations on the use of insignia for each of the 15 activities in civilian defense. Each activity will have a distinctive design which volunteer workers will wear. Designs are executed in modern and dramatic simplicity; for instance, a single flame designates fire watchers; a ladder, rescue parties; a steering wheel, drivers' corps.

"I hope there will be no move to plow up the parks and lawns to grow vegetables as in the first World War," says Secretary Wickard. In a recent report to the Secretary, the USDA garden committee recommended greater emphasis on farm gardens and expansion of school and community gardening to help provide better nutrition in both rural and urban areas. The committee held that while there have been many suggestions for "emergency," "defense," or "war" gardens, there is no emergency in sight that would warrant intensive city home vegetable garden campaigns.

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Farmers need not secure priorities for ordinary small farm structures which do not use critical metals. David Meeker, assistant director of the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations, says there is no priority control on lumber, concrete, stone, brick and glass, and about 70 percent as many nails as in 1940 are available. Farm structures using these materials are not affected by the recent housing order.

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Wilbur A. Harlan of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations and B. H. Thibodeaux of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will be members of a party organized, at the request of the Bolivian government, to survey the agricultural and mineral resources of Bolivia. The party will also study transportation and communication needs of the South American country.

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At the request of Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress and director of OEM Office of Facts and Figures, the Office of Civilian Defense has set aside December 15 to celebrate the signing of the Bill of Rights.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

(Continued from page 1)

information of the kind that will be most helpful to them in properly making use of their own initiative, their capacity for making sound determinations, and their willingness to speak for themselves?

5. In our direct and indirect relationships with districts, with farmers operating in districts, and with agencies, organizations, and individuals contacting districts, do we do our best to encourage and facilitate harmonious inter relationships toward the end of advancing soil and water conservation on the land by all concerned?

6. Do SCS instructions and recommendations to Service personnel working in soil conservation districts always bear full recognition of district authority, independence, and operations relationships?

As for the second type of activity, providing information in local areas, especially districts, that can be used by farmers in bringing about soil and water conservation as well as essential increases in production. For these activities, several kinds of information would be important and could be given major emphasis in the work with district governing bodies, State and county defense boards and State and local land use planning committees in helping farmers to attain production goals. Here are some suggestions which have been made for these activities:

1. An over-all emphasis upon the fact that production of crops can best be based upon a good use of the land resources.

2. Different crops are best adapted to some kinds of land--which should be described so as to be understood by the farmer--and other types of land are unadapted to growing some crops.

3. Certain soil and water conservation
(Continued in next column)

CHIEF HEADS MISSION SAILING FOR VENEZUELA

The Chief sailed on December 5 for Venezuela as the head of a soil conservation mission being sent by the USDA at the request of the Venezuelan Government. The mission party will leave for the interior of Venezuela immediately upon arrival; Dr. Bennett will remain only long enough to get field work started.

practices are applicable on specific kinds of land in producing most satisfactory yields; other practices provide for proper run-off without damage to the land.

4. Description of soil treatments needed on different soil types and kinds of land for various crops.

5. It is important to carry out the steps of growing crops on land best adapted, using applicable soil and water conservation practices and soil treatments in order to obtain maximum production from the available labor, commercial fertilizers, and machinery which will be used. Examples can be cited of how these practices can aid particularly in the crops needed this next year.

(a) For instance, contour listing of corn in the Missouri River area has shown from 5 to 23 bushels increase in yields, mainly through reduced run-off. With this practice, 25 to 50 million bushels more corn could be produced in this area without increasing the acreage and at a reduced cost. Similar examples could be cited for using lime and phosphate on pastures and legume seedings, for designating the kinds of land to which peanuts are particularly adapted, etc.

There are many other suggestions that could be added. However, this column has grown too long. Let's have some comments from the field on activities along these lines.

"UP IN THE AIR" OVER SOIL EROSION

Farmers in the Shiloh-O'Fallon soil conservation district, St. Clair county, Illinois, really have begun to "look down" on erosion.

It was there Charles Stookey, director of farm broadcasts for the Columbia Broadcasting System, introduced what he believes was the first aerial soil conservation tour in the United States.

Stookey then recorded the reactions of some of the individuals who went on the aerial trips. The transcriptions were broadcast over station KMOX, St. Louis, Missouri, a subsidiary of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Stookey, who believes a man never really knows his farm until he has seen it from the air, pointed out that the purpose of the airplane tour was to show the farmers the results of control measures.

There are many examples of soil erosion in the 212,000-acre district, but there also are a number of farms under strip-cropping, contouring, and terracing to control erosion.

Typical reactions were: "I didn't know there was so much erosion," and "You can really see that terracing and strip cropping do the trick."

Stookey got the idea for the air tour after he and District Conservationist Morris E. Fonda took an airplane tour over the district.

The success of the tour on November 19 led Stookey and some newspaper editors to suggest that plans for a soil conservation air tour be incorporated in the work plan which will be developed by the district directors and other committees this winter.

(Continued in next column)

WASHINGTON OVER TOP IN CHEST CAMPAIGN

The Washington office has gone over the top in its Community Chest campaign and to date has subscribed 103 percent of its quota. This percentage may be raised slightly when subscription pledges are received from men who are now on field trips.

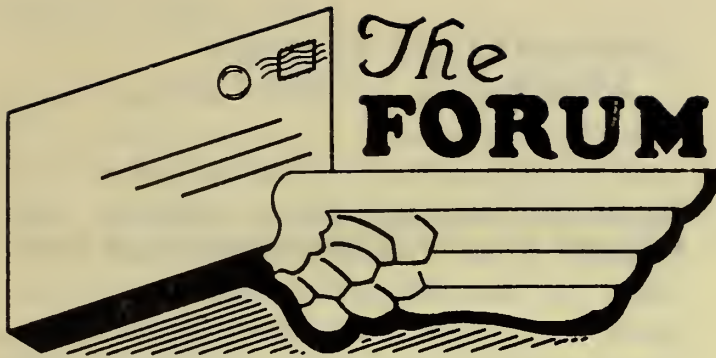
During the campaign quotas were not stressed, but the workers endeavored to inform employees of what is actually done with the Chest dollars. Chairman Henry G. Herrell said he is very pleased with the whole-hearted response this year. "Reports from Washington and the field," said Chairman Herrell, "indicate that Service employees are not overlooking the larger needs of the country for national defense, nor the needs of those close to them."

Members of the Community Chest committee were Henry G. Herrell, chairman; Frederick W. Darnell, vice chairman; and the division chairmen, W. L. Southworth, Clifford Johnson, T. L. Gaston, L. J. Peet, W. J. Roth, G. G. Smith, J. S. Fickling, Samuel Goodacre, and H. C. Mesch.

COLORADO CONSERVATION

"I can't think of a thing that has done the State more good than the Soil Conservation Service has," said Governor Ralph L. Carr of Colorado at a recent meeting of district supervisors from the 20 soil conservation districts in the State. The Governor went on to say, "Word is getting around the country that your work is worthwhile, and it's going to be easier for you to help the people themselves to create a better Colorado."

The farmers made the trip in groups of three at a nominal price. The flights were made from a private airport near Belleville, Ill. Stookey and Fonda made the first flight to show the pilot his course on the tour with the farmers.



RESEARCH NEWS

REGION 7 REPLIES

Some time back I received a letter regarding a release on Region Seven's "sandwich board" which came out in the Service News. I was personally not aware of any such program in this region and in checking it with Mr. Jones and Mr. McClymonds they assure me that there has been no ten-point program of this nature drawn up in this region.

I do remember that in old Region 7, the CCC trucks at that time carried the ten-point program that you have indicated. Apparently we still have a few of those trucks in Nebraska on which this material has never been erased.

I don't know how the information reached the Service News, but I can find no trace of any information that has been developed from our region. So far we have never attempted to narrow our regional program to such limitations, and the various state program objectives contain much more elaborate and inclusive lists of practices in which the cardinal principles of range management are to be found.

B.W.A.

(Service News item was based on CCC trucks observed in Nebraska by Washington man on field trip.--Ed.)

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C. E. Zimmer has been appointed chairman for Region 10 Defense Bonds and Stamps sales campaign. The November 1 report covering a part of the regional employees indicated that out of 170 people, 119, or 70%, are buying bonds and stamps.

Research investigations at Iola, Kans. showed that during a flood of bottom lands in Allen County more than a hundred tons of soil were carried down the river past Iola each minute--or in other words, the upper 7 inches of soil from 9 acres of land flowed downstream every hour.

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A large butcher shop sausage grinder and a concrete mixer are being used to make grass seed pellets, an invention of R. E. Dickson, agent at the Spur, Tex., Conservation Experiment Station. The pellets, which are a mixture of selected clay, water, and grass seed, have produced favorable results in tests for speedy seed germination. Inventor Dickson believes his pellets are the answer to present difficulties in planting on a large scale some types of grass seed because machinery will not handle the small seeds and the wind scatters broadcast sowings.

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The consulting engineering firm of Paulette and Wilson, Topeka, Kans., which has been employed by the Army in connection with the construction of a camp near Colorado Springs, Colo., has requested technicians of Region 6 Hydrologic Division to furnish advice on rates and amounts of rainfall and run-off to be expected in the vicinity of the camp. The information will be used to assist in the design of culverts and other storm water disposal work at the camp which will occupy 5,500 acres and accommodate about 30,000 officers and men in more than 1,100 buildings.

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Recent experiments at Urbana, Illinois, indicate that mulching will increase yields. Plots of soybeans, where a straw mulch was used, yielded 3.28 tons of hay per acre, but on plots where ordinary farm practices were used the yields were only 2.64 tons.

WYOMING FARMERS VOTE TO SET UP DISTRICTS

Of four States whose legislatures enacted districts laws this year, Wyoming is the first to establish districts. Landowners within four counties in Wyoming have recently approved by referendum vote the establishment of districts.

These first districts in Wyoming, which were carried by a good majority vote, are the Pinedale in Sublette County, the Big Piney in Sublette and Sweetwater Counties, Star Valley in Lincoln County, and Ten Sleep in Washakie County. In addition to these districts, petitions are now being considered in Sheridan, Fremont, Campbell, and Goshen Counties.

Reports have been received in Washington that districts are in the process of organization in Arizona and Maine--two other States which enacted districts laws this year. More news about these later.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Eight members of the Washington office staff are preparing to teach first aid work and are now enrolled in the Red Cross instructors training course.

These SOG employees received their preliminary training in the standard and advanced first aid classes taught by Harold M. Salmon, head of the Investigation Section. During the past six months Mr. Salmon has given instruction in the finer points of bandaging, artificial respiration, and treating injuries in all kinds of accidents to three first aid classes--two groups who took the standard course and one advanced class--with a total enrollment of 98 persons. Of this number, 41 were SOG employees.

Miss Katherine Connally also taught a class in first aid last summer in which 36 SOG employees were enrolled.

THORNTHWAITE TEACHES GEOGRAPHY TO BRITISH

C. W. Thornthwaite, chief of the Climatic and Physiographic Division, was "teacher" for a class in American geography on Nov. 24 at the Library of Congress auditorium where about 500 employees of the British Commonwealth of Nations met to learn more about this country in which they are now working.

Dr. Thornthwaite's lecture was the first of a series of 12 which are being sponsored by Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador, to acquaint British subjects working in Washington with the United States. Later lectures will deal with U. S. laws, history, and similar subjects.

RED CROSS CHAPTER

The SOG Red Cross chapter in Washington has developed into a very active organization with a record of achievement of which the members are justly proud. The chapter now has 115 members who make up three meeting groups--the wives' group with Mrs. A. L. Patrick as chairman; Budget and Finance group with Mrs. Selma Walter, chairman; and Land Acquisition group, Kathryn Connor, chairman.

The chapter has more than 350 completed garments to its credit and several members have earned production pins which represent 40 hours of work within 3 months' time. Exhibits of the chapter's work were displayed recently in the Standard Oil Bldg and the USDA patio.

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It's like a snowball, once you get it started, says Wilbur Tullis, district conservationist of the North Muskegon (Mich.) District. A discussion with the owner of a farm who "only wanted some trees planted" led to a complete plan for that farm and two adjacent farms.

FIELD MEMORANDA

- 1026a Conservation of paper used for duplicating work. (Asks SCS offices to cooperate in reduced consumption of duplicating paper by following policy outlined in quoted Budget and Finance Circular 486.)
- 965-B Thanksgiving holiday. (Quotes Assistant Secretary's memo re leave for holiday.)
- 1035 Cooperation between Research and Operations. (Outlines policy and procedure for cooperative arrangement.)
- 1036 Life leases on lands held under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. (Outlines policy and procedure for granting life leases and procedure in connection with their expiration or termination.)
- 1037 Policies and procedures for handling custodial responsibilities of the Soil Conservation Service in connection with Title III lands being managed by State agencies.
- 904-V Occupational deferment. (Explains use of an affidavit form to support claims for occupational deferment.)
- 1038 Annual summary of LU project activities--Land Management Section. (Instructions for preparation of annual summary.)

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Dillon Myer is the SCS representative on the Interbureau Coordinating Committee on Post-Defense Programs, recently formed at the request of Secretary Wickard. To provide a line of communication between the Coordinating Committee and the field, nine regional chairmen have been appointed; of these, Thomas S. Buie will be chairman of the Southeast Region.

SCS MAKES SHELTER CABINS
AVAILABLE TO AIR PILOTS

SCS is furnishing to the Army and commercial airlines information on the exact location of shelter cabins maintained for snow survey crews in the mountainous regions of 17 western States. In announcing this plan, W. W. McLaughlin, chief of the Farm Irrigation Division at Berkeley, Calif., points out that these cabins are located far from any other shelter and might be the means of saving the lives of aviators forced down in the heavy snows of the western mountain ranges.

The shelter cabins are stocked with sufficient food to supply one man for six weeks, and also fuel and emergency first-aid kits. Each cabin is being supplied with an extra pair of skis or snow shoes so that a flier who has made a forced landing or parachuted down will be able to go to the nearest ranch or village for aid. Detailed descriptions are being posted inside the cabins showing the exact route and distance to the nearest ranch or village. It is tentatively planned to place flares in each cabin for distress signalling.

Some of the cabins are visited monthly by snow surveyors and, in any case, each cabin is visited once in the fall and twice during the winter months. These snow surveys are taken every winter so as to forecast the amount of water that will be available for irrigation, power, and domestic use during the succeeding summer. Fifteen hundred to 2000 snow surveyors go into the high mountains of the west each winter to measure the water content of the snow.

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Five hearings for proposed districts in Arizona have been held, according to State Coordinator Allen F. Kinnison. The State Committee has recommended referenda be held for three of the petitions.

PRINTERS' INK

"Gravel-Rock Overfall Structures" by Thurman P. Powell, junior agricultural engineer at Heppner, Ore., in the November *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Marketing the Products from Farm Woodlands" by John F. Preston, chief of the Forestry Division, in the November *Journal of Forestry*.

POST-WAR PLANNING

Secretary Wickard has summed up the Department's post-war planning program as follows:

(1) A public works program to conserve and build up the Nation's national resources—including forestry, soil conservation, flood control, water facilities, range improvement and similar tasks.

(2) A program to provide services and facilities needed by farmers, such as rural housing, medical care, rural electrification, education, libraries and marketing facilities.

(3) A study of agricultural-industrial relations in the post-defense period. This would include analysis of such problems as industrial decentralization, distribution of farm products, such programs as the stamp plan and school lunch program, keeping America's share of foreign markets after the war, and means of maintaining industrial output and employment at a high level.

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More than 90 million kilowatt hours of electrical energy at an estimated value of \$250,000 at the lowest rates has been lost so far this year in North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama due to silting of major power reservoirs, according to SCS technicians who have been making surveys of the reservoirs.

OFF THE PRESS

"Progress Report of the Navajo Soil and Water Conservation Experiment Station, Mexican Springs, New Mexico. 1934-1939," by D. S. Hubbell, J. L. Gardner, and G. L. Sherman. SCS-ERS-9.

CLIMATE AND MAN

Climate and Man, the 1941 Yearbook of Agriculture now on the press, is the sixth in the series of yearly volumes started in 1935. Each volume has covered a broad field of agricultural science and serves as a farm reference book.

The major feature of the 1941 volume is a compilation of weather records State by State, and county by county, probably the most complete weather record ever made available for ready reference. Climate and Man was in progress before the Weather Bureau was transferred from the USDA to the Department of Commerce.

REGION 10 RECRUITMENT

Fifty-five enrollees attended the recruitment training school for new employees in Region 10 recently held at Berkeley, Calif. Through the courtesy of the University of California, a lecture room was provided in Agriculture Hall, located on the campus, and all sessions were held there.

Members of the Regional staff took an active part in the orientation course, presenting programs in their particular fields. Visual aids, such as bulletins, charts, and documentary motion pictures were used throughout the course.

Following the orientation course at Berkeley, the enrollees reported to their respective field headquarters to enter into a six months' period of field training.